

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

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1. (Cancelled).
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Cancelled).
4. (Cancelled).
5. (Cancelled).
6. (Cancelled).
7. (Cancelled).
8. (Cancelled).
9. (Cancelled).
10. (Cancelled).
11. (Cancelled).
12. (Currently Amended) A pedestal mountable on a first support structure for carrying a second support structure in spaced relation to the first support structure, the pedestal comprising:
 - an elongate post having a threaded portion;
 - a base releasably fixed to said post and comprising a substantially annular flange, a central plateau surrounded by said substantially annular flange and having a central opening, at least one tongue on said plateau extending into said central opening, and a rim protruding from said substantially annular flange and spaced radially outboard of said plateau;
 - a spider fixed at an end of said post and having at least one radially outwardly extending leg, said post having a first

circumferential position with respect to said base in which said at least one leg of said spider is located in said base central opening circumferentially offset from said at least one tongue, said post having a second circumferential position with respect to said base in which said at least one leg of said spider snugly underlies and is axially trapped by said at least one tongue, said first and second post positions being circumferentially spaced, one of said at least one tongue and at least one leg having a circumferentially extending ramp surface tightly cammingly engaged with an opposed surface of another of said at least one tongue and at least one leg in said post second position, said leg in said post second position axially tightly abutting said plateau, said tongue tightly abutting said opposed surface in said second position; and

a nut threaded on said post threaded portion, said nut having a first axial position threaded relatively distantly from said spider and a second axial position threaded nearer to said spider, said nut in said nut second position snugly engaging said base so that said base is tightly gripped between said spider and nut.

13. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 12 in which said annular flange and plateau are joined by an axially extending annular portion, said flange having circumferentially spaced fastener holes, said central opening having a peripheral edge defined by a plurality of said tongues circumferentially separated by a plurality of circumferentially extending notches.

14. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein said nut has a generally cup-shaped end portion opening toward said base and including a central recess surrounded by a skirt extending toward said base, said recess being of greater axial extent than said ~~axial stepping of said~~

~~plateau from said base flange~~axially extending annular portion.

15. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 12 in which said post comprises an elongate rigid tube and a generally cup shaped end cap on an end of said tube, said end cap having an outside circumferential surface defining said threaded portion of said post.

16. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 15 in which the generally cup shaped end cap has an end wall adjacent an end of a post and radially inner and outer peripheral walls extending substantially axially from the end wall and toward an intermediate part of said post, said threaded portion of said post comprising threads on said outer peripheral wall, said peripheral walls being radially spaced by an annular groove open axially toward an intermediate part of said post, and said end of said tube being snugly and fixedly received in said groove.

17. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 12 in which said spider has a plurality of circumferentially spaced legs with said generally circumferentially extending ramp surface being on selected ones of said legs, a central locator opening, and fastener holes radially interposed between said central locator opening and legs.

18. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 17 in which said post has a central locator protrusion engagable in said spider central locator opening and centering said spider on an end of said post.

19. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 12 in which said nut has a peripheral surface tapered away from said base, a

textured hand engagable area, a narrow end facing away from said base, and a wide end facing toward said base and recessed to clear said plateau, said wide end having a skirt bounding said recess and of axial length to frictionally engage said base flange.

20. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 12 in which said post has a radially outwardly extending rib axially opposing said nut and blocking displacement of said nut axially therepast, said nut being located on said post between said rib and said post end.

21. (Previously presented) A pedestal mountable on a first support structure for carrying a second support structure in spaced relation to the first support structure, the pedestal comprising:

an elongate post;

a base releasably fixed to said post and comprising a substantially annular flange, a central plateau surrounded by said substantially annular flange and having a central opening, at least one tongue on said plateau extending into said central opening, and a rim protruding from said substantially annular flange and spaced radially outboard of said plateau;

a spider fixed at an end of said post and having at least one radially outwardly extending leg, said post having a first circumferential position with respect to said base in which said at least one leg of said spider is located in said base central opening circumferentially offset from said at least one tongue, said post having a second circumferential position with respect to said base in which said at least one leg of said spider snugly underlies and is axially trapped by said at least one tongue, said first and second post positions being circumferentially spaced, one of said at least one tongue and

at least one leg having a circumferentially extending ramp surface tightly cammingly engaged with an opposed surface of an other of said at least one tongue and at least one leg in said post second position, said leg in said post second position axially tightly abutting said plateau, said tongue tightly abutting said opposed surface in said second position; and

a slider axially slidably mounted on said post, said slider having a first axial position relatively distant from said spider and a second axial position adjacent a lateral plane of said spider and engaging said base, said slider including a substantially annular carrier and at least one block fixed on said carrier and extending therefrom toward said base in said second position.

22. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 21 in which said annular flange and said plateau are joined by an axially extending portion, said flange having circumferentially spaced fastener holes, said central opening having a peripheral edge defined by a plurality of said tongues circumferentially separated by circumferentially extending notches.

23. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 21 in which said post comprises an elongate rigid tube and a generally cup shaped end cap on an end of said tube, said end cap having an outside circumferential surface.

24. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 23 in which said generally cup shaped end cap has an end wall adjacent said end of said post and radially inner and outer peripheral walls extending substantially axially from said end wall and toward an intermediate part of said post, said peripheral walls being radially spaced by an annular groove open axially toward said

intermediate part of said post, and said end of said tube being snugly and fixedly received in said groove.

25. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 21 in which said spider has a plurality of circumferentially spaced legs with said generally circumferentially extending ramp surface being on selected ones of said legs, a central locator opening, and fastener holes radially interposed between said central locator opening and legs.

26. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 25 in which said post has a central locator protrusion engagable in said spider central locator opening and centering said spider on an end of said post.

27. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 21 wherein said base includes at least two said tongues circumferentially separated by a notch.

28. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 27 in which said post has a radially outward extending rib axially opposing said slider and blocking displacement of said slider axially therepast, said slider being located on said post between said rib and said post end.

29. (Original) A pedestal mountable on a first support structure for carrying a use structure in spaced relation to the first support structure, the pedestal comprising:

an elongate post;

a connector member comprising a substantially annular flange, a central plateau surrounded by and stepped from said flange and having a central passage, a step in said passage and facing generally away from said plateau, said passage

being sized to snugly axially receive an end portion of said post;

a radially outwardly extending protrusion fixed on said post opposing said plateau and defining a limit to axial displacement of said connector member toward an intermediate part of said post; and

a latch axially fixed on said post and located to engage said step and maintain said connector member against unintended displacement off said post.

30. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 29 in which at least one of said latch and said step is releasably radially shiftably mounted and has a displacement direction away from an other of said step and said latch to allow removal of said connector member from said post.

31. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 30 including an axially opposed pair of said steps, said steps being substantially annular and defined by a substantially annular groove in said passage, said latch being a leaf spring fixed on said post inboard of said connector member, said passage having a slot extending from said groove through said central plateau but of lesser radial depth than said groove, said slot being of circumferential width exceeding the circumferential width of said leaf spring, said leaf spring extending through said slot and having a radial protrusion receivable in said annular groove and resiliently radially outwardly pressed thereinto, said protrusion being radially resiliently spaced outward from said post, said protrusion cooperating with said opposed steps to axially locate the said connector member axially on said post.

32. (Original) A pedestal mountable on an environmental surface for carrying an object support spaced from the environmental surface, the pedestal comprising:

an elongate post;

a base mountable on an environmental surface and having an opening defining a notch and a tongue extending into said opening beside said notch;

said post having a generally radially extending portion in turn having a first position with said portion inserted in said notch and having a second position with said portion axially trapped behind said tongue, said first and second post positions being laterally offset; and

an annular member sleeved on and axially movable on said post, said member having a first axial position relatively distant from said portion and a second axial position engaging said base, in portion/tongue disengagement inhibiting relation.

33. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 32 wherein said annular member comprises a slider axially slidably mounted on said post, said slider including a substantially annular carrier and at least one block fixed on said carrier and extending therefrom toward said base, said block in said second axial position occupying said notch and blocking displacement of said portion from behind said tongue.

34. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 32 in which said post has a threaded portion adjacent said generally radially extending portion, said annular member comprising a nut threaded on said post threaded portion, said nut in said first axial position being threaded relatively distantly from said radially extended portion, said nut in said second axial position snugly engaging said base so that said base is tightly gripped between said generally radially extended portion and nut.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 35 ~~including~~⁵⁷ in which one of said tongue and leg has a circumferentially extending ramp surface tightly camingly engaged with an opposed surface of an other of said tongue and leg in said post second position, said leg in said post second position axially tightly abutting said base, said tongue tightly abutting said opposed surface in said second position, an annular member sleeved on and axially movable on said post, said member having a first axial position relatively distant from said base and a second axial position engaging said base, in ramp surface/opposed surface disengagement inhibiting relation.

39. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 35~~57~~ in which said base comprises a substantially annular flange, a central plateau surrounded by said substantially annular flange and containing said central opening, said tongue is on said plateau, said base has an annular flange and said a plateau~~are~~ joined by an axially extending portion, said flange has a plurality of circumferentially spaced fastener holes, and said central opening has a peripheral edge defined by a plurality of said tongues circumferentially separated by a plurality of circumferentially extending notches.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 40~~57~~ in which said post comprises an elongate rigid tube and a generally cup shaped end cap on an end of said tube, said end cap has an outside circumferential surface, said generally cup shaped end cap has an end wall adjacent said end of said post

and has radially inner and outer peripheral walls extending substantially axially from said end wall and toward an intermediate part of said post, said peripheral walls being radially spaced by an annular groove open axially toward said intermediate part of said post, and said end of said tube being snugly and fixedly received in said groove.

42. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 3757 including a spider fixed at an end of said post and carrying more than one said radially outwardly extending leg, and in which said spider has a plurality of circumferentially spaced legs with ~~said~~a generally circumferentially extending ramp surface being on selected ones of said legs, a central locator opening, and fastener holes radially interposed between said central locator opening and legs.

43. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 42 in which said post has a central locator protrusion engagable in said spider central locator opening and centering said spider on an end of said post.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 38 in which said post has a radially outwardly extending rib axially opposing said annular member and blocking displacement of said annular member axially therepast, said annular member being located on said post between said rib and said post end.

46. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 38 in which said post has a threaded portion adjacent said leg, said annular member comprising a nut threaded on said post threaded portion, said nut in said first axial position being threaded relatively distantly from said leg and in said second axial

position being threaded nearer to said leg, said nut in said second axial position snugly engaging said base so that said base is tightly gripped between said leg and nut.

47. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 46 in which said nut and said base have a frictionally engaging interface frictionally holding said nut in said second axial position.

48. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 47 wherein said nut has a generally cup-shaped end portion opening toward said base and including a central recess surrounded by a skirt extended toward said base.

49. (Cancelled)

50. (Cancelled)

51. (Currently amended) ~~The apparatus of Claim 49A~~
pedestal mountable on a first support structure for carrying a
second support structure in spaced relation to the first
support structure, the pedestal comprising:

an elongate post;

a base releasably fixed to said post; and

an annular member sleeved on and axially movable on said
post, said member having a first axial position relatively
distant from said base and a second axial position engaging
said base, in post/base disengagement inhibiting relation, in
which said base has a central opening and a tongue extending
radially into said central opening, a spider fixed at an end
of said post and having at least one radially outwardly
extending leg, said post having a first circumferential
position with respect to said base in which said at least one
leg of said spider is located in said base central opening
circumferentially offset from said at least one tongue, said
post having a second circumferential position with respect to
said base in which said at least one leg of said spider snugly

underlies and is axially trapped by said at least one tongue, said first and second post positions being circumferentially spaced, one of said at least one tongue and at least one leg having a circumferentially extending ramp surface tightly cammingly engaged with an opposed surface of an other of said at least one tongue and at least one leg in said post second position, said leg in said post second position axially tightly abutting said plateau, said tongue tightly abutting said opposed surface in said second position.

52. (Cancelled)

53. (Currently amended) ~~The apparatus of Claim 49A~~
pedestal mountable on a first support structure for carrying a
second support structure in spaced relation to the first
support structure, the pedestal comprising:

an elongate post;

a base releasably fixed to said post; and

an annular member sleeved on and axially movable on said
post, said member having a first axial position relatively
distant from said base and a second axial position engaging
said base, in post/base disengagement inhibiting relation, in
which said base has a central opening with a radially inward
extending tongue, said post having a radially extending leg
releasably located under said tongue, said post having a
threaded portion adjacent said leg, said annular member
comprising a nut threaded on said post threaded portion, said
nut in said first axial position being threaded relatively
distantly from said leg and in said second axial position
being threaded nearer to said leg, said nut in said second
axial position snugly engaging said base so that said base is
tightly gripped between said leg and nut.

54. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 53 in which said
nut and said base have a frictionally engaging interface
frictionally holding said nut in said second axial position.

55. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 54 wherein said nut has a generally cup-shaped end portion opening toward said base and including a central recess surrounded by a skirt extended toward said base.

56. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 55 in which said base comprises an annular flange surrounding a central plateau and a generally axially extending annular lip between said flange and plateau, said nut laterally engaging said lip, so as to interfere with lateral movement of said post with respect to said base.

57. (New) A pedestal mountable on a first support structure for carrying a second support structure in spaced relation to the first support structure, the pedestal comprising:

- an elongate post;

- a base releasably fixed to said post, said base having a central opening with a radially extending tongue, said post having a radially oppositely extending leg, said post having a fixed position free of said base in which said leg is circumferentially offset from said tongue, said post having a second position fixed to said base in which said post is axially and circumferentially offset from said post first position and said leg is trapped axially behind said tongue; and

- an annular member sleeved on and axially movable on said post, said annular member having a first axial position relatively distant from said base and leg, and a second axial position (1) adjacent said leg and said base and (2) in post/base disengagement inhibiting relation with said leg and base.

58. (New) The apparatus of Claim 57 wherein said base central opening has a periphery including at least two said tongues circumferentially separated by a notch, said notch and tongues being distributed circumferentially around the length axis of said post, said annular member comprising a slider axially slidably mounted on said post, said slider including a substantially annular carrier and at least one block fixed on said carrier and extending axially toward said base, said block having a first axial position distant from said base and a second axial position in said notch and circumferentially opposing said leg.

59. (New) The apparatus of Claim 57 in which said annular member is axially aligned with said leg on said post.